

Present:

Phyllis Whiteside

Vikki Fazekas

Tina Mason

Frank McKenna

Lily Duckworth

Colin White

John Harwood

Edna Counce

Freda Smith

Louise Newall and from New Progress Gary Melia and Steve O'Hagan

HOUSING FORUM
April 18th 2006
Lancashire F.A.
Leyland

Apologies: Alex Green

	Item	Action
1.	<p>Appointment of Chairman</p> <p>Steve invited the Forum to appoint a tenant chair and Frank McKenna was duly appointed with unanimous support.</p> <p>Signing of the Compact by both Frank and Bernie Keenan to be arranged following approval of the Compact by the New Progress Housing Association (NPHA) Board</p>	<p>SOH</p>
2	<p>Draft Community Cohesion Strategy</p> <p>There was some discussion of proposals outlined in the Strategy to engage with younger people better.</p> <p>A number of people made reference to the difficulty of getting input from younger people in the past.</p> <p>Steve explained the joint working proposed with South Ribble Borough Council (SRBC) and that it was hoped to engage younger people through a Community Radio project.</p> <p>He also explained that his understanding was that SRBC had worked with Runshaw College in identifying young people with an interest in forum meetings but that he would double check.</p> <p>The chair referred to the promising reduction in reports of juvenile nuisance referred to at page 7 of the draft Strategy and also drew our attention to the reference at page 8 to staff making a contribution in their free time to community events and initiatives.</p> <p>Tenant Board Members who were present in particular were sceptical about a tenant's insurance scheme being</p>	<p>SOH</p>

		<p>viable as this had been investigated and not followed up in the past. Steve thanked people for the cautionary words.</p> <p>There was reference to the good quality of the website and Colin offered to help if any "Silver Surfer" type initiative should be tried in his locality.</p> <p>There was a question about the proportion of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) people within the population in the areas that NPHA operates and Gary was able to confirm the figure as about 2% in South Ribble and of the order of 3-4% overall.</p> <p>It was agreed that the "KEY ACTION PLAN ITEMS" table would be better if a "Desired Outcome" column were added.</p>	<p>SOH</p> <p>SOH</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Draft Tenant Participation Compact</p>	<p>It was agreed that there should be reference to the compact being available in other formats and languages.</p> <p>There was also reference to publicising the compact in the "Talk" Newsletter and the "Talk2" website.</p> <p>In response to some frustration about the low level of active involvement the chair referred to the 4th paragraph on page 7 of the document referring to the disinclination of many to attend meetings and giving different options for input.</p> <p>Issues relating to electricity supply and service charges at Blackpool were raised. Colin was unhappy they had been raised locally but not resolved as yet.</p> <p>Steve apologised and explained this was likely connected with the sickness related absence of the relevant Estate Manager and agreed to follow it up.</p> <p>Gary explained that the recently introduced itemisation of Service Charges had brought to light a number of anomalies and issues that were being worked through by the NPHA Database team headed by Sharon Fenton.</p> <p>It was suggested that the section on becoming a Tenant Board Member gave the impression that this was a more likely option for anybody expressing an interest than was in reality the case.</p> <p>After some discussion involving tenant board members</p>	<p>SOH</p> <p>SOH</p>

		<p>present explaining their understanding of the situation it was agreed that there should be rewording of this section of the draft compact</p>	SOH
4	Equality and Diversity Pledge	<p>The meetings attention was drawn to the Equality and Diversity Pledge featuring in both of the key documents presented.</p> <p>It was emphasised that the pledge would be the basis on which NPHA would expect all groups and individuals it worked with to conduct themselves.</p> <p>Steve explained that the pledge was based on an equality and diversity statement to be found in the Constitution of the Wade Hall and District Residents Association.</p> <p>The pledge was supported as a positive starting point.</p>	
5	Programme of Forum Meetings and Tenant Training Programme	<p>Steve circulated a programme of key meetings - including the Housing Forum - and training events.</p> <p>He advised that further information would follow on specific times etc.</p>	
6	Date & Time of Next Meeting	<p>Tuesday July 25th 2006 at 6pm</p>	